

# LNP10

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## **Larry Neal Writing Competition**

### **Program Guidelines**

#### **Application Guidelines for Adults, Youth, and Teens**

#### **About this Program:**

The Larry Neal Writers' Competition commemorates the artistic legacy and vision of cultural understanding held by the renowned author and academic Larry Neal. Cash awards and prizes are given to **adults (ages 19 and up)** for artistic excellence in writing in three categories: poetry, short story and dramatic writing, and to **youth (ages 8-12) and teens (ages 13-18)** in three categories: poetry, short story and essay. Awards will be presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Larry Neal Writers' Awards Ceremony in May 2010.

**Applicants must be residents of the District of Columbia.**

#### **Where can I get an application?**

For the FY 2010 Larry Neal Writing Competition application, please see page 4.

#### **When is the deadline?**

There is one deadline to apply for this competition for FY 2010:

**Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 6:00 PM**

**All application materials must be received at the Commission office by the deadline date and time.** Applications postmarked on the deadline date but not physically in the office by the deadline time will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to hand deliver applications and request a receipt.

## What are the writing submission requirements?

**Applicants may apply in one category only.**

### **Adults (ages 19 and up):**

**Poetry:** Three unpublished poems (one poem per page)

**Short Story:** One unpublished story, not to exceed 3,000 words, double-spaced

**Dramatic Writing:** One unproduced play or screenplay with a two-page summary (playwrights should use the traditional format)

### **Youth (ages 8–12) and Teens (ages 13–18):**

**Poetry:** Two unpublished poems (one poem per page)

**Short Story:** One unpublished story, not to exceed 500 words, double-spaced

**Essay:** One unpublished essay, not to exceed 500 words, double-spaced

**Applicants must complete an application form**, available on page 4, and attach application to writing submission in accordance with the formatting instructions listed on the application form.

**Applicants must submit one (1) completed application form and ten (10) copies of their writing submission by the deadline.**

## How are the writing submissions evaluated?

Commission staff will evaluate applications for eligibility, but will not judge writing submissions.

Writing submissions will be judged according to their artistic merit by distinguished professionals in the aforementioned literary genres. Detailed evaluation criteria is listed on page 3. The judges will not be privy to the application forms and will not know the identity of the applying writers. The judges reserve the right not to make an award in any category in which they do not find suitable submissions. The evaluation process will also take into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public consistent with The National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act, as amended in 1990.

## Where can I go for additional information?

For information on Larry Neal, the competition, awards ceremony, and general information about the Commission and all of the Commission's grant programs and special projects, visit <http://dcarts.dc.gov> or contact the Larry Neal Writers' Competition program coordinator, Lisa Richards Toney, at 202-724-5613.

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## Evaluation Criteria for Application Review

Creativity.....45%

1. Displays strong imagination in writing.
2. Draws on prior knowledge of subject matter to create written text.

Technique.....45%

1. Recognizes and understands the effects of figurative language.
2. Employs linguistic diversity in the written presentation.
3. Explores theme or concept across content areas.
4. Conveys ease in expression of the written text.
- 5.. Mastery of language as demonstrated through spelling, grammar, and punctuation.  
(Allowances should be made in instances of stylistic choice).

Compliance with Application Regulations.....10%